

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, May 30, 2002

Chair Herro called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Ken Herro (Chair), Alicia Silva, Paul Pronold, Jim Jeskewitz, and Mareth Kipp. Carl Seitz arrived at 1:40 p.m. **Absent:** Sandy Wolff.

Also Present : Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Deputy Health & Human Services Director Ernie Messinger, Adolescent & Family Services Manager Pat Voss, Child & Family Services Manager Jesus Mireles, and Commission on Aging Member Calvin Gander.

Read Correspondence

Herro highlighted the most recent Executive Committee correspondence list. Esler advised of a letter from Wisconsin Counties Association Executive Director Mark O'Connell to State Health & Family Services Secretary Phyllis Dube asking to meet on behalf of Wisconsin counties to discuss the State's position on what is necessary for counties to do in order to be in compliance with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) deadline. Esler felt this should be a future agenda item due to new requirements which he described as potentially time consuming and labor intensive. Esler advised of information on the kickoff event for the new 211 System in Waukesha County which he also felt should be a future agenda item.

Meeting Approvals

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Kipp to approve attendance for any committee members wanting to attend kickoff event for the 211 System on June 11 at 1:00 a.m. in Room 159 of the Administration Building. Motion carried 5 -0.

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Pronold to approve attendance for any committee members wanting to attend the Criminal Justice Task Force meeting on June 5 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Human Services Center. Motion carried 5 -0.

Approve Minutes of May 16, 2002

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Silva to approve the minutes of May 16, 2002. Motion carried 5 -0.

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

June 13, 2002.

Executive Committee Report

Herro advised of the agenda items scheduled for the June 3 Executive Committee meeting.

Overview of Health & Human Services Division Operations

Adolescent & Family Services Division

Voss discussed the Adolescent and Family Services Division as outlined in his handout. The division provides court-ordered and court-diverted supervision, case management, and treatment to delinquent children and their families, and to children in need of protection or services and their families. They also monitor and fund commitments of youth to state correctional institutions, and monitor and coordinate purchased community-based programs for the care and treatment of delinquents, status offenders, and severely emotionally disturbed children. They provide temporary care and supervision, as well as recreational, health care, educational, and counseling services to

delinquent and status offender youths in the Juvenile Center, a secure and non-secure juvenile detention center.

Seitz arrived at 1:40 p.m.

There are a total of 18 staff (15 full-time and 2 part-time) in the Family Services Program. These include 3 Clinical Therapists and 15 Social Workers. 470 clients were served in 2001. Regarding the Juvenile Services Program, there are 19 staff (15 full-time and 4 part-time). These include 12 full-time Social Workers, 3 part-time Social Workers, 1 full-time and 1 part-time Clinical Therapist, and 3 full-time support service positions – 1 Human Services Support Specialist and 2 Clerk Typists. 566 clients were served in 2001. Contracted programs include Home Detention/Intensive Supervision, the Intensive Tracking Program, Victim/Offender Mediation, Alternatives to Aggression Groups, the Lauer Center Educational Support Program, Juvenile Center structured activities, and the Community Services Sanction Program.

The Waukesha County Juvenile Center combines secured detention, shelter care units, the juvenile court and court office within the same facility. The center falls under the administration of this division. The center can accommodate 36 children, 18 in shelter care (9 girls and 9 boys) and 18 in the secured detention unit. They are placed at the center under court orders for detention to ensure a juvenile's appearance at a scheduled court hearing, under court sanction orders for violation of rules of supervision, and under court dispositional orders for the 30-day "sentence." The staff consists of the Juvenile Center Coordinator, 6 Child Care Supervisors, 20 Child Care Workers, 2 teachers (provided by the Waukesha School District), and 2 Clerk Typists. The center operates 7 days a week, 365 days a year with 3 shifts daily.

The department provides services to families of delinquent juveniles in an effort to maintain those juveniles in their own home and community while minimizing their risk of re-offending. Juvenile correctional placements occur when serious and chronic delinquent behavior becomes a challenge. Placement of a juvenile in a correctional facility may be recommended to the court to ensure community protection. These facilities may include Ethan Allen, Lincoln Hills, Southern Oaks, or the Youth Leadership Training Center. In 2001, 12 youths were placed in corrections. The department recommended corrections in 6 of those cases. Total 2001 County correctional expenditures were \$459,829. This figure is down from 1998 through 2000.

Children & Family Services Division

Mireles discussed the Children and Family Services Division as outlined in his handout. They provide services to children and their families when the children have been victims or are in significant danger of becoming victims of abuse and/or neglect. Staff provides services to empower families to provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children.

The Parent Services Unit provides services to parents of children at imminent risk of placement or already in alternate care. Services are directed towards preventing placement, resolving issues that led to placement, and finding a permanent home for children in placement. Services offered include assessment, counseling, court-related services, case management and monitoring progress in treatment, crisis intervention services, etc. Contracted services include parenting classes for agency clients, parenting skills for parents with developmental disabilities, supervised visitation, parent/child interaction assessments, etc. The unit consists of 7 Social Workers, and one Human Services Support Specialist. In 2001, 136 families were served, 54 cases were opened, 46 cases were closed, and there were 11 Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) cases.

The Alternate Care Unit works with children, who, for a variety of reasons are no longer able to reside with their parents. While removed from their parents' care, these children reside in settings that include residential care, group home, foster home, relative placement, and supervised independent living. Staff work with the child, foster parents or facility staff, and the birth family in an attempt to facilitate a permanent living arrangement for the child. Services include foster home recruitment and licensing, support of foster parents and relatives taking a child into their care, support of the child in out-of-home placement, social work and case management services, etc. The unit consists of 9 Social Workers (8 of whom carry an active caseload). The remaining Social Worker's job is recruitment, licensing, and support of foster parents. There is also one unit Supervisor.

Report on the Wisconsin Counties Human Services Association (WCHSA) Spring Conference of May 21 -23

Esler highlighted the recent WCHSA Conference that he attended. Others in attendance were Supervisors Sandy Wolff, Duane Stamsta, and Vera Stroud, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Ernie Messinger, and Dennis Farrell and Jo Ann Weidman of the Health & Human Services Board. Esler said that Stroud and Wolff had both stated that this was one of the best WCHSA conferences they've attended to date.

Esler said he was impressed that three State of Wisconsin department secretaries were in attendance: Phyllis Dube of the Department of Health & Family Services, Jennifer Reinert of the Department of Workforce Development, and Jon Litscher of the Department of Corrections. They made themselves available for small group sessions after their panel discussion. Esler felt the differences in philosophies were interesting. He observed the differences between the resources available for the treatment of juveniles and those available for the treatment of adults in society and once one reaches the age of 18 there is an entirely different perspective on how they are treated under the government umbrella. They are no longer considered a "human" but a "thing."

For informational purposes, Esler distributed copies of a handout he received on the preliminary report to the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors regarding the need for jail space, alternative programming, and the necessary structure of alternative programming. This session was billed as "developing a criminal justice philosophy in your community." The mayor of Green Bay spoke at the conference on the issue of consolidation of services. Esler said he was impressed on how they got the community involved in their correctional situation.

Future Agenda Items

- Discuss Potential Impacts of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (Esler)
- Review the Internal Audit on AODA Programming (referred by the Executive Committee)
- Presentation on the New 211 System in Waukesha County (Esler)

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Pronold to adjourn at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried 5 -0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Silva
Secretary